

PATENT
Atty Dkt.: 017750-582

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An imaging optical apparatus, comprising:
2 a first detector;
3 a first optical system with a first entrance aperture and having a first
4 field of view for projecting at least a first portion of a first wavelength range on
5 the first detector;
6 a second optical system having a second field of view narrower than
7 the first field of view for projecting at least a second portion of the first
8 wavelength range on the first detector; and
9 a third optical system configured to receive radiation in a second
10 wavelength range, the third optical system being operable with the second optical
11 system to project the radiation in the second wavelength onto the first detector,
12 wherein the second and third optical systems share a second entrance
13 aperture and wherein the first portion and the second portion of first wavelength
14 range have a coincident focal plane located at the first detector.

1 2. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first
2 wavelength range is wavelengths emitted from a target.

1 3. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second
2 wavelength range is wavelengths emitted from a first laser and reflected from an
3 object.

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1 4. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a fourth optical system configured to receive radiation in a third
3 wavelength range emitted by a second laser toward the target and reflected from
4 the target, the fourth optical system sharing the entrance aperture with the second
5 and third optical systems.

1 5. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:
2 a second detector, wherein the second detector only receives
3 radiation from the fourth optical system.

1 6. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fold
2 mirror disposed in an optical path between the first entrance aperture and the
3 second entrance aperture and the detector selectively directs to the first detector
4 the first portion of the first wavelength range or the second portion of the first
5 wavelength range and the radiation in the second wavelength range.

1 7. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second portion
2 of the incident radiation is at least partially included within the first portion of
3 incident radiation.

1 8. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the third optical
2 system is configured to receive radiation in a second wavelength range emitted by
3 a designator laser toward the target and reflected from the target, the third optical
4 system being selectable to project a designator image onto the detector.

1 9. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the imaging
2 optical apparatus is a catadioptric optical system.

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1 10. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the narrow field
2 of view (NFOV) optical system comprises at least one catadioptric optically
3 significant surface with a narrowband filter.

1 11. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second optical
2 system and the third optical system share an optical axis.

1 12. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detector is a
2 single focal plane array.

1 13. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detector is a
2 hyperspectral detector.

1 14. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one
2 optically significant surface is a split Mangin mirror with a cemented doublet and
3 a narrowband filter, the optically significant surface having a coating disposed on
4 a first surface that reflects at least a first desired wavelength and transmits a
5 second desired wavelength.

1 15. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second
2 desired wavelength is reflected at a second surface.

1 16. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second
2 desired wavelength is filtered twice by a single narrowband filter.

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1 17. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one
2 optically significant surface is a Mangin mirror comprising a first element and a
3 second element, the first element having a coating disposed on a first surface that
4 reflects at least a first desired wavelength and transmits a second desired
5 wavelength.

1 18. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second
2 element has a second surface that reflects only the second desired wavelength.

1 19. An imaging optical apparatus, comprising:
2 a first optical system having a first field of view for projecting at
3 least a first portion of incident radiation emitted from a target to a first focal
4 plane;
5 a second optical system having a second field of view narrower than
6 the first field of view for projecting at least a second portion of the incident
7 radiation to a second focal plane; and
8 a third optical system configured to receive radiation reflected from
9 the target, the third optical system being selectable to project the reflected
10 radiation to the second focal plane,
11 wherein the second and third optical systems share an entrance aperture
and wherein the first focal plane and the second focal plane are coincident.

1 20. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:
2 a fourth optical system configured to receive radiation in a third
3 wavelength range emitted by a ranging laser toward the target and reflected from
4 the target, the fourth optical system sharing the entrance aperture with the second
5 and third optical systems.

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1 21. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second
2 portion is at least partially included within the first portion.

1 22. The imaging optical apparatus of claim 19, wherein the third optical
2 system is configured to receive radiation in a second wavelength range emitted by
3 a designator laser toward the target and reflected from the target, the third optical
system being selectable to project a designator image onto the detector,

1 23. A method of gathering imagery from a target, comprising the steps
2 of:

3 receiving radiation emitted from a target in a first wavelength range
4 using a first optical system having a wide field of view (WFOV), the first optical
5 system projecting a WFOV image onto a first detector;

6 receiving radiation emitted from the target in the first wavelength
7 range using a second optical system having a narrow field of view (NFOV), the
8 second optical system projecting a NFOV image onto the first detector; and

9 receiving radiation in a second wavelength range using a third
10 optical system, said radiation in the second wavelength range being emitted from a
11 first designator laser toward the target and being reflected by the target, the third
12 optical system projecting a designator image onto the first detector,

13 wherein the second and third optical systems share an entrance
14 aperture and wherein the NFOV image and the designator image can be
15 simultaneously projected onto the first detector.

1 24. The method of claim 23, comprising a step of:
2 switching between the narrow field of view and the wide field of
3 view.

1 25. The method of gathering imagery from a target of claim 23, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 receiving radiation in a third wavelength range using a fourth
4 optical system, said radiation in the third wavelength range being emitted from a
5 second designator laser toward the target and being reflected by the target, the
6 fourth optical system projecting a designator image onto a second detector.

1 26. A method of constructing an imaging optical apparatus, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 providing a first detector;
4 providing a first optical system having a wide field of view
5 (WFOV) and being configured to receive radiation emitted from a target in a first
6 wavelength range, the first optical system being selectable to project a WFOV
7 image onto the first detector;

8 providing a second optical system having a narrow field of view
9 (NFOV) and being configured to receive radiation emitted from the target in the
10 first wavelength range, the second optical system being selectable to project a
11 NFOV image onto the first detector; and

12 providing a third optical system configured to receive radiation in a
13 second wavelength range emitted by a first designator laser toward the target and
14 reflected from the target, the third optical system being selectable to project a
15 designator image onto the first detector,

16 wherein the second and third optical systems share an entrance aperture
17 and wherein the NFOV image and the designator image can be simultaneously
18 projected onto the first detector.

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1 27. The method of constructing an imaging optical apparatus of claim
2 26, further comprising the step of:

3 receiving radiation in a third wavelength range using a fourth
4 optical system, said radiation in the third wavelength range being emitted from a
5 second designator laser toward the target and being reflected by the target, the
6 fourth optical system projecting a designator image onto a second detector.

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